



St. Charles  
Borromeo  
Church

# Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer  
Memorial of St. Francis de Sales  
January 24, 2025



## INTRODUCTION

Leader: God, + come to my assistance.

**All: Lord, make haste to help me.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

# PSALMODY

## Psalm 116:1-9 Thanksgiving

*We must endure many trials before entering God's kingdom  
(Acts 14:21)*

### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Lord, keep my soul from death,

*All:*       **never let me stumble.**

*Leader:* I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.

*All:* **They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the  
anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.**

O Lord, my God, deliver me!

**How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me.**

Turn back, my soul, to your rest  
for the Lord has been good;  
he has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Lord, keep my soul from death,

*All:*       **never let me stumble.**

## Psalm Prayer

*Leader:* God of power and mercy, through your Son's passion and resurrection you have freed us from the bonds of death and the anguish of separation from you. Be ever with us on our pilgrimage; then we shall sing rather than weep. Keep our feet from stumbling, so that we may be able to follow you until we come to eternal rest.

**Psalm 121:** Guardian of his people  
*Never again will they hunger and thirst, never again know scorching heat*  
(Revelation 7:16)

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* My help comes from the Lord,

*All:* **who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:  
from where shall come my help?  
My help shall come from the Lord  
who made heaven and earth.

**May he never allow you to stumble!**  
**Let him sleep not, your guard.**  
**No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,**  
**Israel's guard.**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;  
at your right side he stands.  
By day the sun shall not smite you  
nor the moon in the night.

**The Lord will guard you from evil,  
he will guard your soul.**  
**The Lord will guard your going and coming both now  
and for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* My help comes from the Lord,

*All:* **who made heaven and earth.**

**Psalm Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared a quiet place for us  
in your Father's eternal home. Watch over our welfare  
on this perilous journey, shade us from the burning heat  
of day, and keep our lives free of evil until the end.

**Canticle: Revelation 15:3-4:** Hymn of adoration

**Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages,

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**

Mighty and wonderful are your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Righteous and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations!

**Who would dare refuse you honor,  
or the glory due your name, O Lord?**

Since you alone are holy,  
all nations shall come  
and worship in your presence.  
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages,

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**

**READING:** James 3:17-18

Wisdom from above is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

**RESPONSORY**

*Reader:* In the midst of the Church he spoke with eloquence.

**All: In the midst of the Church he spoke with eloquence.**

The Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding.  
**He spoke with eloquence.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**In the midst of the Church he spoke with eloquence**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Canticle of Mary:** Luke 1:46-55

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

*Leader:* O blessed doctor, Saint Francis, light of holy Church  
and lover of God's law,

*All:* **pray to the Son of God for us.**

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his  
lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: the  
Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* O blessed doctor, Saint Francis, light of holy Church  
and lover of God's law,

*All:* **pray to the Son of God for us.**



## INTERCESSIONS

*Reader:* Jesus Christ is worthy of all praise, for he was appointed high priest among men and their representative before God. We honor him and in our weakness we pray:

**All: Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

You marvelously illuminated your Church through distinguished leaders and holy men and women,  
– let Christians rejoice always in such splendor.

**Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

You forgave the sins of your people when their holy leaders like Moses sought your compassion,  
– through their intercession continue to purify and sanctify your holy people.

**Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

In the midst of their brothers and sisters you anointed your holy ones and filled them with the Holy Spirit,  
– fill all the leaders of your people with the same Spirit.

**Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

You yourself are the only visible possession of our holy pastors,  
– let none of them, won at the price of your blood, remain far from you.

**Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

The shepherds of your Church keep your flock from being snatched out of your hand. Through them you give your flock eternal life,  
– save those who have died, those for whom you gave up your life.

**Bring salvation to your people, Lord.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father,  
you gave Francis de Sales the spirit of compassion  
to befriend all men on the way to salvation.  
By his example, lead us to show your gentle love  
in the service of our fellow men.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
– **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*If a priest or deacon presides, he dismisses the people:*

The Lord be with you.  
– **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
– **Amen.**

Go in peace.  
– **Thanks be to God.**

*In the absence of a priest or deacon and in individual recitation,  
Evening Prayer concludes:*

*Leader:* May the Lord + bless us,  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
– **Amen.**